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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/960,696	09/21/2001	F. Van Baltz	12870US03	4274

7590

06/19/2003

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34th Floor
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Chicago, IL 60661

EXAMINER

CAPRON, AARON J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3714

DATE MAILED: 06/19/2003

9

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/960,696

Applicant(s)

BALTZ ET AL.

Examiner

Aaron J. Capron

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 March 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 and 6-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 and 6-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 7.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

This is a response to the Amendment received on March 31, 2003, in which claims 1-4 were amended, claims 6-17 were added, and claim 5 was cancelled. Claims 1-4 and 6-17 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in-

(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or

(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

Claims 1-4, 6, 8-14 and 16-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Burns et al (6,048,269; hereafter "Burns").

Referring to claim 1, Burns discloses a gaming system including a gaming machine comprising a display for displaying credit amount (6:47-55); a medium generator arranged to generate a medium comprising a machine readable validation code and a non-machine readable credit amount (Figure 2, \$25.50); a reader unit for reading the validation code from the medium (Figure 1: Bar Code Reader); and a network interface comprising (Figure 1- UIB; 7:40-60); a central authority (Figure 1: Host CPU) arranged to store the validation code and a credit amount received from the network in response to generating the medium; arranged to validate the validation code and arranged to transmit the stored credit amount through the network to the

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interface in response to validation code the credit amount being displayed on the display (6:30-55).

Referring to claim 2, Burns discloses a gaming system including the game machine being a slot machine (abstract).

Referring to claim 3, Burns discloses a gaming system including the gaming machine includes a ticket printer (2:43-47).

Referring to claims 4 and 6, Burns discloses a gaming system including the gaming machine generates a cashout signal in response to manual activation (Abstract-gaming machine generates a signal to the bar code printer to print the cash out slip, 1:5-18). It is an implicit feature that Burns has a manual cashout signal in order to generate a cashout ticket showing a cashout dollar amount after the player has finished playing the gaming machine.

Referring to claim 8, Burns discloses the central authority determines whether the medium read by the reader has been redeemed (6:41-46).

Referring to claim 9, Burns discloses the central authority stores a medium type received from the network in response to generating the medium and wherein the central authority transmits the medium type to the interface over the network in response to validation of the validation code. Burns discloses three different ticket types, such as a cashout ticket and a free play ticket (Figs 2-3). Burns discloses that the CPU stores the validation number and the monetary value (6:22-28) and the use of automated machines to automatically award cash to the players after receiving a cashout ticket (7:15-30). If Burns did not differentiate between the stored ticket types, a player with a free play ticket would be allowed to input the free play ticket

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into a the automated cash machine and receive the monetary value of the free-play coupon, instead of only the free play.

Claims 10-14 and 16-17 correspond in scope to a method set forth for use of the gaming system listed in the claims above and are encompassed by use as set forth in the rejection above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 7 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Burns in view of Stockdale et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,251,014; hereafter "Stockdale").

Referring to claims 7 and 15, Burns discloses the a central authority transmits to the interface through the network a validation code, but does not disclose that the central authority sends a validation code before a cashout signal is generated. However, Stockdale discloses a gaming system, with a card reader/printer, which transfers pertinent information from a master device to a peripheral device in order to preserve the functionality of the peripheral devices in case of a power failure (17:58-18:5). One would be motivated to combine the references in order to protect the pertinent information that preserves the functionality of the peripheral device in case of a power failure. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the security features of Stockdale into

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the gaming system of Burns in order to protect the pertinent information that preserves the functionality of the peripheral device in case of a power failure.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed March 31, 2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicants argue that Burns does not teach or disclose a non-machine readable credit amount. However, Burns discloses a cash teller readable credit account in the amount of \$25.50 on the medium of ticket at Figure 2. The cash teller can read the amount on the ticket and compare this value to the machine readable amount listed on the bar code to determine if there has been any tampering. Therefore, the claimed invention fails to preclude Burns's invention.

Applicants argue that Burns does not disclose transmitting the stored credit amount through the network in response to a validation of the validation code. However, Burns discloses sending bar code information from the host CPU to a networked device, such as a ticket printer (6:17). Burns also includes the bar code includes information, such as amount of winnings (abstract, lines 3-6). Thus, Burns discloses sending the amount of winnings from the host CPU to the ticket printer having an interface. Therefore, the claimed invention fails to preclude Burns's invention.

Applicants argue that Burns does not disclose a signal to the bar code printer to print the cash out slip. However, Burns discloses a network connection from the slot machine game to the bar code printer to print out a cashout ticket (Figures 1-2). Further, as stated above, it is an implicit feature that Burns has a manual cashout signal in order to generate a cashout ticket

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showing a cashout dollar amount after the player has finished playing the gaming machine.

Therefore, the claimed invention fails to preclude Burns's invention.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a).

Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

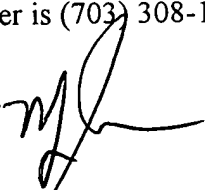
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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Aaron J. Capron whose telephone number is (703) 305-3520. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tom Hughes can be reached on (703) 308-1806. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9302 for regular communications and (703) 872-9303 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1148.

ajc
June 11, 2003



MARK SAGER
PRIMARY EXAMINER